

the law to women and includes special provisions to encourage women's access to education and government. Restoring human rights, and, in particular, women's rights, is key to Afghanistan's successful reconstruction and transition to democracy.

Women of all cultures are being recognized on an international stage for their contributions. Notably, Shiri Edadi won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to promote democracy and human rights in Iran, particularly for women and children.

The U.S. Senate can work toward protecting women's rights and improving the status of women domestically and internationally by acting upon the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. CEDAW is a comprehensive treaty on women's human rights addressing almost all forms of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage and family, health care, politics and law. It has been over two decades since the United States signed this treaty, and it still awaits consideration before the Senate. Once again, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations to take up this treaty and allow the Senate the opportunity to offer its advice and consent on this important convention.

International Women's Day celebrates the progress women have made in the face of adversity and pays tribute to women fighting against discrimination and other injustices. This year, Congress recognized Dorothy Height for her tremendous work for women's rights. Ms. Height, who fought against racism and violence toward African Americans, also battled for women's full and equal employment, increased educational opportunities, and institutions for women in the United States. This year, she was awarded a congressional gold medal for her contributions to our nation.

Women have made tremendous strides in the last century. In the United States, more and more women are attending college and earning postgraduate degrees. Worldwide, women are becoming increasingly active in the political process—more women are being elected to office and appointed to positions of power than ever before. In the year 2000, 11 countries were led by women.

While I recognize that women in the U.S. continue to make great advances, work remains to narrow the wage disparity between men and women. Although some progress has been made in narrowing the gender wage-gap since Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act in 1963, unfair wage disparities continue. I am proud to support legislative efforts to correct this discrepancy. In addition, I encourage the Senate to consider legislation to reauthorize the TANF program. I believe that any welfare reauthorization bill that passes the Senate should help to ensure that we are not just reducing the welfare rolls, but are also helping current and former TANF recipients break the cycle of poverty.

Unfortunately, violence against women is still all too prevalent in our country. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of child-bearing age. One out of every six American women have been victims of a rape or an attempted rape. Many rapes go unreported, and more than half of the women attacked know their assailant. We must continue to adequately fund state and local programs, including support shelters for women suffering from violent abuse in their homes. These safe havens deserve strong support and funding for the invaluable work they provide for women and communities around the country.

As we honor women and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions, we must recognize that there is still much more to be done in the struggle for gender equity. Discrimination and violence against women continue to exist at home and abroad. The United States and the rest of the international community must reaffirm their commitment to promote gender equality and human rights around the world.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In Stafford, VA, Thomas Rivers heard that another boy thought he was cute. Rivers responded by shouldering the classmate in hallways at school, shouting slurs and spitting on him. The next year, 18-year-old Rivers attacked the boy by bashing him in the back of the head with a metal pole, nearly killing him.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND MICROSOFT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to address the European Commission's antitrust action against Microsoft. It is my understanding that antitrust authorities for the European Union member nations have given European Competition Commissioner Mario Monti their unanimous backing for a formal commission finding that Microsoft abused its market share of its Windows operating system for personal computers to leverage its way into related markets for networking and multimedia software. It is expected that the

European Commission will hand down a formal decision finding that Microsoft is in violation of European Union antitrust laws.

By imposing harsh, unprecedented penalties upon Microsoft, the Commission has extended its view of competition and regulation beyond Europe and onto the United States—to the detriment of U.S. laws, industry and consumers.

For many years, the European Union and its member states have criticized the United States for adopting laws and regulations that, in the view of European policymakers, have had an extraterritorial reach. The European Commission in particular has consistently urged the United States to ensure that its legal determinations do not intrude into European affairs. We now have a clear example of the European Union not practicing what they preach.

If the Commission rules that Microsoft is in violation of European Union antitrust laws, it will undercut the settlement that was so carefully and painstakingly crafted with Microsoft by the U.S. Department of Justice and several state antitrust authorities. There can be no question that the U.S. Government was entitled to take the lead in this matter—Microsoft is a U.S. company, many if not all of the complaining companies in the EU case are American, and all of the relevant design decisions took place here. I would hope that if the Commission were cognizant of America's legitimate interests in this matter, it would act in a manner that complemented the U.S. settlement. I fear the Commission has selected a path that places its resolution of this case in direct conflict with ours.

This is not the only example of the Commission's overreaching in this case. In recent negotiations with Microsoft, the European Commission demanded that Microsoft agree to ensure that computer manufacturers who sell pre-installed versions of Windows also install three competing media players—an obligation that the Commission insisted on imposing not just within the EU, but globally. In spite of its objections to these requirements, Microsoft agreed to the Commission's approach in order to reach a settlement. I understand the Commission proposes to impose a fine of over \$610 million on Microsoft—higher than any fine in the Commission's history. It has been suggested that the amount of this fine was based not only on Microsoft's conduct in the EU, but in the United States and elsewhere as well. One can only conclude that the Commission was not satisfied with how U.S. antitrust authorities and courts resolved the case against Microsoft, and therefore decided to act as a kind of supranational competition authority by fining Microsoft for its conduct worldwide.

The Commission's proposed ruling, as well as its negotiation tactics, is unprecedented in its scope. By proposing

to fine Microsoft for purported anti-competitive conduct and injuries in the United States, the European Commission is directly challenging the adequacy of the United States' own antitrust laws, including the settlement that Microsoft and U.S. authorities reached in the U.S. proceedings. In fact, the obligations proposed to be imposed on Microsoft by the Commission are precisely the type that the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Department of Justice rejected as undermining consumer welfare.

It is incumbent on the Departments of State and Justice to stand up not only for an important American company but more importantly for legitimate U.S. jurisdiction over alleged anticompetitive behavior in the United States. The U.S. and the EU are signatories to a 1991 comity agreement on antitrust issues which requires that one government defer to the other if the principal issues being investigated involve companies of one of the parties. Here, the EU is investigating a U.S. company based on complaints from other U.S. companies. If the U.S. Government does not make a clear and strong statement objecting to the EU's extraterritorial approach, we will lose influence and credibility for years to come to the detriment of all U.S. industry, as well as to U.S. consumers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend the Veterans Upward Bound Program and all those associated with it on its 25th anniversary.

Hundreds of students at the University of Massachusetts have benefited from the program and gone on to earn bachelors, masters, and doctorate degrees. These veterans are using the same enthusiasm and drive that made them exemplary members of our Armed Forces, and are now vital forces for positive change in their communities.

For many years, the TRIO programs have been available to help more young men and women in our society to understand that college is within their reach. The Veterans Upward Bound Program does the same for veterans. It provides a bridge to help those who have served our country so well make the transition into college. Veterans learn how to use the benefits available from the Veterans Administration and from veterans' associations and State and local veterans programs to obtain the information and skills they need to qualify for college. Every year, nearly 5,000 veterans are served by this impressive program and go on to college.

Many of us share a strong commitment to the belief that each of us can make a difference in improving the world around us, and all of us must try.

Enabling veterans to continue their education is in the best tradition of our country.

These are very difficult days in our history. As our service men and women return to civilian life, education can often have an essential and prominent role in their futures, and in the Nation's future too. Veterans Upward Bound programs are an important part of a nationwide grassroots effort to enable our veterans to improve their own lives and continue to keep our Nation strong in many different ways.

The talented professionals who carry out these programs so well deserve our gratitude. On this special anniversary, I commend them for all they do so well to make college a reality for our veterans.●

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WAHINE SOCCER PLAYER NATASHA KAI

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, It is with great pride that I rise to recognize Natasha Kai of Kahuku, HI, for her extraordinary athletic achievements. As a forward for the University of Hawaii Rainbow Wahine soccer team, Natasha was recently named to the 2004 Women's Under 21 National Soccer team. This achievement marks the first time any female athlete from the State of Hawaii has acquired a position on this prestigious, nationally recognized team. After attending two training camps within the last month, Natasha competed amongst 40 of the country's top female athletes to earn a coveted spot on the national team.

The national team is currently in China and competing in a tournament with the hopes of making it to the 2004 Nordic Cup, the premier tournament to be held in Iceland later this summer. A few days ago, the national team secured its first exhibition match win triumphing over the Shanghai SVA team. Natasha made her international debut during that match and scored the first goal within the first three minutes of play. The national team is off to a successful start and has two more exhibition matches before they return home.

I am doubly proud that Natasha hails from Kahuku High School, which is one of the schools where I first entered the classroom as a teacher. As a multi-talented athlete at Kahuku, Natasha received four varsity letters each in soccer and track, as well as two in volleyball, and one each in basketball and cross country. Natasha was a two-time Oahu Interscholastic Association (OIA) All-Star soccer player, as well as a 2001 All-State player of the year. During her senior season, she led the Red Raider soccer team to a OIA division title win, a first for the school. Natasha earned State track and field honors in the 110 meter hurdles, high jump, and long jump, and was the two-time record holder and State champion in the 300 meter hurdles. In 2001, as a volleyball player she was voted to the OIA-East first team. Basketball accom-

plishments include being named to the OIA First-team and State Second-team that same year. In addition to her success on the field, Natasha also excelled in the classroom and was an honor student. As one of the most highly recruited female athletes in the State, Natasha decided to stay and pursue her athletic endeavors at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

As a forward on the soccer field, Natasha is known for her explosive speed and skill when evading defenders and scoring goals. During her freshman year with the UH Wahine Rainbow soccer team, she started 16 of the 17 games she appeared in and broke eight school records. Natasha was named the 2002 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) freshman of the year and WAC player of the year, and captured all-WAC first team honors. As a 2002 UH Scholar athlete, she was also selected for the Soccer Buzz freshman All-West region first team and All-American third team. The freshman scored two hat tricks against Tulsa and Boise State during conference play and was named WAC Offensive Player of the Week three times. Last season as a sophomore, Natasha led the Nation in scoring with 29 goals and again received her second WAC player of the year and All-American honors. With the help of this skilled athlete, UH won a record 13 matches and secured its first conference title in 2003.

The athletic accolades of Natasha speak volumes of her character, love of the sport of soccer, and dedication to the game. I am confident that all the people of Hawaii, particularly her family and friends, take great pride in her great accomplishments. I wish Natasha and her teammates the best of luck while competing in the tournament and a safe journey home. Win or lose, I extend the support of the country and especially the support of all Hawaii. I thank Natasha for serving as a role model and for reminding us all that through hard work and determination, even what seems like a distant dream can be realized.●

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

In 1981, a 9-1-1 public safety dispatcher from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office, in my home State of California, first had the idea to designate one week each year to honor the work of public safety telecommunicators. In 1991, Congress issued a formal proclamation acknowledging National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. In 1994, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week became a permanent, federally designated week, observed annually during the second week of April.

I commend our Nation's public safety telecommunicators, usually the first and most critical contact our Nation's